



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As the new director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, I have had the opportunity in the last few months to meet with dozens of stakeholder groups, elected officials, and water leaders throughout the state. I am convinced that most of them want this ambitious, collaborative effort to succeed, but many are skeptical that the CALFED agencies can handle the transition from a planning process to implementing the most comprehensive water management plan in the nation.

Fortunately, the Program has been blessed with strong leadership from Governor Davis and his senior staff, California Resources Secretary Mary Nichols, Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Hayes, and the state and federal agencies and stakeholders now leading key elements of the Program.

As we begin the implementation phase of the Program, I believe that our success will depend largely on three factors:

First and foremost, meeting the aggressive milestones and commitments in the plan. We understand that the credibility of the Program depends upon our ability to meet these commitments, and we intend to deliver. As described in the following pages, I am pleased to report that we have met all of our end-of-year milestones, and are completing a budget that will allocate over a half a billion dollars in the first year to water supply, water quality, and ecosystem restoration projects throughout the Bay-Delta system.

Second, securing adequate resources to meet our future commitments. We are fortunate that the Governor, the Legislature, and the voters of California had the foresight to develop and pass two bond measures, Propositions 204 and 13, to provide a significant down payment on the state's share of funding. But without a strong financial commitment from our federal partners, the Program will not move forward.

Third, strengthening our partnerships with local and regional communities. The Program will be successful only if it supports and builds upon collaborative efforts to address water issues at the local or regional level. The Sacramento River Conservation Area, the Sites Reservoir Planning Memorandum of Understanding, the Yolo Basin Foundation, the Bay Area Blending Strategy, the San Joaquin River Restoration Program, and the Water Quality Exchange Partnership are just a few examples in this year's report of local groups that are seizing the initiative – with CALFED support and funding – to address the most critical water issues in their regions.

I look forward to working with our staff and partners in building upon these successes in the coming year.

Patrick Wright